Eleanor A. Dasi, Larissa Aïcha Saïd, "Entry on: Ping the Precious Monkey by Beyana Ngarbaï", peer-reviewed by Daniel A. Nkemleke and Elizabeth Hale. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2019). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/619. Entry version as of November 21, 2026.

Beyana Ngarbaï

Ping the Precious Monkey

Chad

TAGS: African Mythologies African Storytelling African Traditions Gods





We are still trying to obtain permission for posting the original cover.

General information	
Title of the work	Ping the Precious Monkey
Country of the First Edition	Chad
Country/countries of popularity	Chad
Original Language	Mundang:The original language of the myth is Ngambay, but because the researchers could not understand the language, and there was no translator available, the narrator decided to tell the story in Mundang which they could understand.
Country of the Recording of the Story for the Database	Chad
Full Date of the Recording of the Story for the Databasey	December 24, 2019
More Details of the Recording of the Story for the Database	Pala
Genre	Myths
Target Audience	Crossover
Author of the Entry	Eleanor A. Dasi, University of Yaoundé 1, wandasi5@yahoo.com Larissa Aïcha Saïd, University of Yaoundé 1, larissaichasaid@gmail.com

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Peer-reviewer of the Entry	Daniel A. Nkemleke, University of Yaoundé 1, nkemlekedan@yahoo.com Elizabeth Hale, University of New England, ehale@une.edu.au

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Creators



Beyana Ngarbaï (Storyteller)

Age of Narrator: 62 (in 2019)

Social status: Notable

Profession: Teaching

Language of narration: Mundang

Bio prepared by Didymus Tsangue Douanla, University of Koblenz-Landau, douanlatsangue@gmail.com, Aïcha Saïd Larissa, University of Yaoundé 1, larissaichasaid@gmail.com and Eleanor A. Dasi, University of Yaoundé 1, wandasi5@yahoo.com

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Additional information

Origin/Cultural Background/Dating	Origin/cultural background: See myth of *Burma Te-Dge*.

Summary	From the beginning of time, when the women of the Pala clan in the western part of Chad were pregnant, there was only one way for them to give birth - their wombs had to be opened with a knife to remove the baby, and they would inevitably die in the process. One day a pregnant woman, realizing that she would soon go through the same fatal process, escaped to the forest and sat under a big tree, lamenting her situation to the forest. Then, the forest god appeared to her in the form of a monkey coming down from a tree. The Monkey harvested leaves, which he chewed, then ground with red (palm) oil and gave to the pregnant woman to swallow. After that, the woman gave birth naturally. After her delivery, she took the Monkey with her back to the village. When men were threatening to kill the Monkey, she protected him. Later, the Monkey taught the men of the village how to make the concoction he had given to the pregnant woman in the forest. From that day on, the Monkey became a sacred animal for the Bebalem clan.

Analysis	Some animals occupy a prestigious position in many world myths, either by their involvement in incidents or activities that are beneficial to humans or by their favour from the gods. In the myth above, the Bebalem people of Chad consider the Monkey as sacred because of its role in showing the people the natural birthing method, significantly reducing the mortality rate of women during childbirth. The Monkey then becomes a sacred animal to the people by virtue of this life-saving contribution. The Monkey is also popular in other mythologies and folklore. Such as in China, where it is considered as the “Great Sage Equal to Heaven*”, in Hindu mythology, as a representative of Shiva, and in Japanese mythology, representing the god of fertility and safe childbirth (interestingly, the same role it plays in the myth of Ping the Precious Monkey!).

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* Qítiān Dàshèng (□□□□). See: *Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio* (tr. John Minford), London: Penguin, 2006.

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	African Mythologies African Storytelling African Traditions Gods
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Animals Child, children Gender, female Nature Religious beliefs
Further Reading	*Animals in Mythology*, mythencyclopedia.com (accessed: August 16, 2021). Jokinen, Anniina, "Monkeys and Monkey Gods in Mythology, Folklore, and Religion", luminarium.org, published March 8, 2007 (accessed: August 16, 2021).
Addenda	Researchers: Eleanor A. Dasi and Larissa Aïcha Saïd Research assistant: Seïd Houzibe (trans.) Editor: Daniel A. Nkemleke

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